

BELMONT VISION 21 IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Date: Thursday, July 8th, 2010

Present: Tim Bowman (Chair), Jerome Dubois (Recorder), Kevin Cunningham, Kevin Heine, Jennifer Page, Paul Solomon

Absent: Jane Feinberg, Sara Masucci, Michael Sattler, Wendy Rundle

1. **START:** Meeting convened by Committee Chair Tim Bowman at 7:05

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Meeting notes were reviewed, a correction was requested and approved – replacing a reference to “Sara” as “Sara Masucci” in the later parts of the minutes.

3. **MEET BELMONT:** Update from Jennifer - 7:12
 - Sara Oaklander went to Chenery School to check out the Cafeteria
 - Some hurdles in arranging the space, so need to be flexible - exhibitors in hallway?
 - Mobile tables but fixed stools as seats
 - Sara Oaklander taking over arrangement of the exhibitors for Lori
 - End of June, the 1st piece went out with Citizen Herald
 - 2 volunteers have stepped forward to help
 - Goal is to get task force (similar to Envision Belmont) to take on the Meet Belmont work
 - Contacted Ellen Cushman (Town Clerk) to find out how renters could be reached
 - Ellen mentioned that the Town Clerk's office could reach out to them on our behalf
 - School Dept has had a policy of requiring renters to provide proof of residence, and signed letter by land lord confirming they are renting
 - Jennifer will have staffing assignments for VIC members on the meeting before Meet Belmont takes place

- Kevin offered up on idea to check BMLD registration along with car and voter registration information for renters in the town
- BMLD newsletter had announcement in the June bill
- July bill coming out in August will have a News Notes announcement
- 3-4 announcements will be placed in the Citizen Herald
 - Reaching out to PATCH (online community paper) to also have announcements
- Paul commented on how impressed he was with how many groups in town that are interested in Meet Belmont as a way to get their messages out
- Paul will contact a PATCH reporter, who used to work for Citizen Herald
- Paul commented that it would be important to track how the attendees have heard of Meet Belmont
 - Comment that Survey Monkey could be used as a way to track "how did you hear about this event"
 - Jennifer would like to contact the Police Dept on the use of their mobile light-board to advertise the event
 - There will also be a poster at the Farmers Market
- Paul commended Jennifer for her work and how the Meet Belmont event has really taken off

4. ENVISION BELMONT: Update provided by Tim - 7:30

- Michael has accepted taking over the website work
 - Looking at alternatives to host the site
 - Previous hosting was \$44/year and limited the number of web pages, or depth, of the site
- Citizen Herald column did not run this edition
 - Sara is out of columns to provide
 - Tim requested that we send a reply to Sara to the questions for the Column so she has a backlog
- Next Envision Belmont Neighborhood Discussion scheduled for Jerome and Nancy Dubois' house on July 17th from 3:30 – 5PM
 - Jennifer commented that she would like to attend and take notes

- Tim unsure if he or Sara would facilitate
- Tim reached out to the Religious Council for their participation
- They commented that the "Summer is tough"
- However they will reach out to see if a couple of congregations would be willing to organize an event
- Kevin asked about the availability of attendees to host their own Conversations
- Tim commented that this hasn't really taken place as of yet, but was a goal of the session
- October Event
- There is a meeting on July 16th to discuss in greater detail
- Tim opened up the thought of asking existing interest groups in Belmont if they would like to send a representative to "seed" the conversation and ensure a good turn out
- Also discussed how other neighborhoods have converted the Community Conversations into an ongoing Community Council
- They would get together once per month to discuss and educate each other across the different interest groups
- It could act as a forum for the town leaders to gain ideas and feedback
- This Council (Needham?) has even started a Not For Profit to provide specific services that others are not (like a Thrift Shop)
- Tim's goal is 200 attendees, based on the 400 that attended a similar School discussion
- It was noted that the School discussions plan was for 800 to attend
- Kevin expressed concern in getting the 200 people, maybe 100 was more reasonable?
- Tim provided the example of POMS (Parents of Music Students) as an organization that would likely want to contribute in the October event
- This opened up a long "brainstorming session" fueled by Kevin Heine
- Kevin Cunningham offered a comparison to the School feedback forum
- There was a person that was empowered to carry the input to the town leaders
- Who is this feedback going to?
- Tim offered that one of the groups - Selectman, Dr Entwistle, Younger could all be participants to the October session

- Kevin Cunningham asked who the "recipient" of the feedback would be
- Kevin Cunningham offered that if the VIC is the only host, then there is truly no one who has the authority to carry it forward
- Paul asked if the Selectmen would be willing to play the same role as the School committee for the session?
- Jennifer suggested the Warrant Committee members (this is the Finance Committee who proposes the Budget on an annual basis to the Town Meeting)
- Kevin Cunningham provided feedback on how to market the session to get town officials to want to participate
- Paul commented on the purpose and suggested he bring it up during a meeting he was having with Ralph Jones on the 10th.
- Kevin agreed with Kevin Cunningham's point, and commented that something has to be on the line for the officials. Should this be opened up to Town Meeting, as Belmont citizens
- Tim noted that the session shouldn't be restricted to just Town Meeting members
- Kevin Cunningham used the recent over ride discussion as an example of how people are becoming more aware and educated about what's really going on
- Paul affirmed that the role of the VIC during the October session is to be a facilitation
- Jerome commented that we should present the tangible/quantifiable data collected as a way of opening up the meeting and setting the stage - a way of building credibility with the audience and the hosts
- Paul suggested that the Chair of Selectmen open the meeting
- Jennifer proposed that we advertise who was "co-sponsoring" the event, which will have the effect of adding legitimacy to the session
- Paul impressed on the group that a tag-line was necessary to get people there and define the session
- Kevin Cunningham voiced his concern that we don't necessarily want to dictate a theme, it should be an open dialog.
- Tim agreed but felt it was important that the Session be viewed as a basis of input for the town executives as they make decision on priorities in the future
- Tim also felt Town Meeting was not the audience, but rather members could be included in the discussion
- Jennifer spoke about her concerns that people have a disconnect / distrust of the "in crowd"
- Jennifer also volunteered that maybe the vendor list for Meet Belmont is a good place to start because they are involved

- Tim also voiced a concern that there are many underserved neighborhoods whose opinion would not be represented because they are not hosting Neighborhood Sessions
- Kevin Cunningham commented that the Oct session should ideally be an activist's meeting, regardless of what neighborhood
- Tim will bring this input to the Envision Belmont working group on July 13th at 7:13 PM (Town Hall)

5. OTHER BUSINESS

- Kevin commented that this had been a very valuable session
- Kevin also thanked Paul for his service as Committee chair
- Paul commented that Jane and Michael should be appointed on the next Selectman's meeting (Monday the 12th)
- Paul also noted that Belmont is receiving an Achievement Award from Local Governments for Sustainability "ICLEI" as Belmont has met 3 of the 5 milestones

6. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Dubois

Recorder, Pro Tempore